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Minutes 04/28/2009

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP
APRIL 28, 2009 MEETING

SPY POND COMMITTEE
Town Hall Annex, First Floor

In attendance: Peter Belknap, Jacob Friis, David Gilman, Joey Glushko, Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Stroker Rogovin.
Facilitator: Jacob Friis **Minutes:** Elizabeth Karpati

Next meetings: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 9, Town Hall Annex, First Floor Conference Room.

Trails Day, May 9: Preparations were reviewed.

“Linear Park” planning:

- Walk-through was held April 23, with Brett Loosian of MassHighway and Town Engineer Mike Rademacher. Stroker wrote up the notes.
- The chain-link fence probably cannot be moved because of safety requirements, but Mr. Loosian will look into the possibility of getting the path resurfaced and removing a big bump caused by a tree root near the Lake Street end.
- A MassHighway crew with a big machine dubbed “T.Rex” recently chewed up a number of trees (invasive Ailanthus) on the highway side of the fence, leaving jagged stumps and debris – and space for new plantings, which could serve as a visual screen, though not as a noise barrier. MassHighway may be able to supply some plants at low cost.
- Plantings for a visual screen could include tall perennials like Joe-Pye-weed and goldenrod, for which seeds could be collected from the plantings in Spy Pond Park. Jane could supply some native azaleas. Permission may be needed from MassHighway and/or the Con Com.
- We should consider a second workday in the fall for planting.
- The path cannot be called a “bikepath” because that would require a guardrail on the pond side.
- The sandbar was not discussed because it is a separate issue, though a big one.

Other:

- **Minutes** should be marked “DRAFT” and posted on-line promptly, so marked; the word “draft” can then be deleted when they have been approved.
- **Goose eggs:** 63 have been addled (vs. 70-90 in past years); no goslings have been noted yet. Some addled eggs on the island have later been found cracked, some swan eggs too: vandals? There was no addling done at the Res; there were no nests at McClennen Park.
- **Sandbar:** Estimates are \$15,000 for permits, \$200,000 for removal from above, \$300,000 if a barge has to be used. In New Hampshire a lake was dredged with \$319 grant money; Mike Rademacher will check whether removing the sandbar would qualify for such a grant.
- The **rowing teams** on Spy Pond have generated some opposition to the coaches’ power boats and “noise.” Boats may be under the hp limit or have special permission. Joey will ask Joe Connelly to let the coaches know so that the

situation can be defused before it gets worse.

- **Warrant article** on waterbodies will be deferred along with all other financial articles; Town Meeting will act on non-financial articles, then take a break until June.
- No new information at this point on **weed treatment** or the Spy Pond **management plan**.